

# \$2.05 million federal grant awarded to Loma Linda University School of Nursing



LOMA LINDA UNIVERSITY  
HEALTH

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **\$2.05 million federal grant awarded to Loma Linda University School of Nursing**

*Grant will expand and diversify nurse practitioner education program and will provide much needed resources and programs in San Bernardino County*

**Loma Linda, CA, July 11, 2016** – The U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration has awarded Loma Linda University School of Nursing a \$2.05 million, three-year grant to expand and diversify its nurse practitioner education program to better prepare graduates to work in medically underserved areas such as many found in San Bernardino County.

U.S. Representative Pete Aguilar said in a statement, “San Bernardino County has lower than average educational attainment and higher than average unemployment and poverty rates, as well as high Medi-Cal enrollment. At the same time, the population is served by fewer than average primary care physicians and nurse practitioners per person, intensifying known health disparities.”

“This grant from the U.S. Health Resources and Services Administration will enable Loma Linda University School of Nursing to provide much needed resources and programs in San Bernardino County,” Aguilar continued.

“Nurse practitioners can help solve the shortage,” Roberts explains. “Therefore, students need clinical experiences that prepare them to meet the needs of culturally diverse, medically underserved populations.”

The grant will allow the School of Nursing to achieve this objective by hiring additional faculty for the nurse practitioner program, with priority given to underrepresented minorities who meet requisite qualifications. It will also provide for the creation and expansion of academic-practice partnerships in order to provide more clinical training opportunities in medically underserved populations, and increasing students’ clinical hours in training with inter-professional teams in medically underserved areas.

Expanding minority enrollment in the nurse practitioner program, and augmenting the curriculum and training for both preceptors and students increases the likelihood of Loma Linda University’s nurse practitioner students working in medically underserved areas after graduation, the project team believes.

Dean Elizabeth Bossert, PhD, says, “This grant will help nurse practitioner students understand the great health needs of the population in the Inland Empire and will increase the likelihood that the graduates of the LLU School of Nursing program will choose to continue working in this region.”

Competition for the grant was intense, according to Betty Winslow, PhD, professor and research director, School of Nursing. “We are very pleased that the project team has received this grant for the School of Nursing graduate program,” she says.

This news was received in tandem with another grant recently received for the nurse practitioner program from the state of California’s Song-Brown grant program.

The \$80,000 Song-Brown grant will also allow the school to increase efforts to prepare nurse practitioner students to work with diverse patient populations. At the same time, it will work to increase diversity within the profession through mentoring potential future nurse practitioners.

## **About Loma Linda University Health**

Loma Linda University Health includes Loma Linda University's eight professional schools, Loma Linda University Medical Center's six hospitals and more than 900 faculty physicians located in the Inland Empire of Southern California. Established in 1905, Loma Linda University Health is a global leader in education, research and clinical care. It offers over 100 academic programs and provides quality health care to 40,000 inpatients and 1.5 million outpatients each year. A Seventh-day Adventist organization, Loma Linda University Health is a faith-based health system with a mission "to continue the teaching and healing ministry of Jesus Christ."